

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, November 30, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell. Washington D. C.
November 30, 1877. Dear Alec:

Your two "scribbles" arrived yesterday. Mr. Pollok says do not take out any patents abroad before applying for one here, for by so doing you make this patent dependent on the life of the English patent, and shorten its life three years. Our patents run for seventeen years — English for only fourteen. Do not take out a joint patent with Varley, because you cannot be joint inventors on two sides of the Atlantic, but it can be issued in the joint names of you and Varley, The object is to prevent Varley from using the patent except with your consent. I also send by this mail a number of petitions for patents. You can fill out the petition then write whatever specification you please. This can be filed, amended and taken out whenever you are ready. You must swear to the petition before the American Counsel. Mr. Pollok gave me the name of his correspondent in London but I have forgotten. I think it was Johnson Lincolns Field, he says he is the best in England, but that you can draw a specification better than any patent agent.

We are doing very well with Telephones, New orders coming in every day. I have written by this Steamer to Col Fahland, Military Inspector Telegraphs, Berlin, in answer to an application and have sent him some Telephones. I have also written to James Pond, 8 Bismarck Plats, Dresden, asking him to act temporarily as our agent in Germany. He is highly recommended by Mr. Landon 2 and Judge Home. We sent him four Telephones two weeks ago. Please correspond with him. I have asked him to go to Berlin and see Siemens, find out what they are doing, and if they want to act as our agents. Please do not be in too much of a hurry, if you do you will make a great mistake.

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Wants money to put up a Telephone line, and neither Siemens nor anyone else of means will do very much that will render them liable in damages to you. Do profit by our experience here, and your own in England. How much have you accomplished in selling or leasing Telephones with everything in your favor.

Mr. Roosevelt sails tomorrow. I hope you have done nothing in France, I think you will like Mr. Roosevelt very much, and that the arrangement will please you. It is made to depend on your approval. With best love to you and Mabel.

I am ever yours, Gardiner G. Hubbard.